

Message Text

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USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: RELEVANT LESSONS FOR NATO FROM THE 1973

MIDDLE EAST WAR

REF: USNATO 0854

1. YOU MAY DISTRIBUTE JCS 4404 TO SYG AND OTHER PERMREPS.

2. PARA 2 OF JCS CABLE ENLARGES ON THE ISSUES DISCUSSED BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AT THE DECEMBER DPC: (A) A HIGH CONFIDENCE THAT INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES WILL PROVIDE THE WARNING INDICATORS, AND (B) A LOWER CONFIDENCE IN THE POLITICAL ASSUMPTIONS, PERCEPTIONS AND PRECONCEPTIONS, ALL OF WHICH WERE ACTIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND CAN IMPACT UPON NATO'S ABILITY TO
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RESPOND SUITABLY TO WARNING.

3. PARAGRAPH 2 OF JCS CABLE MIGHT BE FURTHER CLARIFIED BY DRAWING ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 7. CONGRESSMAN STRATTON RAISED A QUESTION ABOUT THE ISSUE OF SURPRISE. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED: QTE THE FIRST ISSUE THAT YOU RAISED WAS WITH REGARD TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SURPRISE ATTACK...AS REFLECTED IN EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I THINK THAT THE ANSWER IS,

YES, INDEED, WITH THE FORCES AVAILABLE AN OPPONENT CAN ACHIEVE A HIGH DEGREE OF TACTICAL SURPRISE. IN THE CASE OF THE MIDDLE EAST THOSE FORCES HAD BEEN DEPLOYED. WE DO EXPECT TO HAVE STRATEGIC WARNING WITH REGARD TO ANY REINFORCEMENT COMING FROM THE SOVIET UNION, AND IN ADDITION, A LARGE SHARE OF THE FORCES OF THE NON-SOVIET NATIONS IN THE PACT ARE NOT MAINTAINED IN A READY STATE. SO FOR BOTH REINFORCEMENT AND FOR MOBILIZATION OF THOSE PACT FORCES WHICH ARE NOT READY, WE WOULD HAVE STRATEGIC WARNING. HOWEVER, FOR THOSE FORCES THAT ARE IN A 'READY' STATE, WE CANNOT COUNT ON WARNING. AND CONSEQUENTLY WE MUST BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH AN ATTACK BY THOSE FORCES AT VERY SHORT NOTICE. WE CAN, HOWEVER, HAVE THE REASSURANCE, THAT FOR THOSE FORCES TO BE REINFORCED WE WOULD HAVE ADVANCE INFORMATION, AND IF THE ALLIANCE HAS THE POLITICAL COHESION AND THE READINESS TO RESPOND, IT ALSO CAN CALL UP ADDITIONAL FORCES AFTER RECEIVING STRATEGIC WARNING. END QTE. RUSH

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